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LETTER DATED 19 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Please find enclosed the latest United States report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 794 (1992) on Somalia.

I should be grateful if this report could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Edward J. PERKINS

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Annex

Report dated 16 January 1993 by the United States of America pursuant to Security Council resolution 794 (1992)

Since the submission of our previous report on this subject (S/24976, 17 December 1992), Operation Restore Hope and the forces of the Unified Task Force in Somalia (UNITAF) have made significant progress towards achieving the objective stated in resolution 794 (1992) of using "all necessary means to establish as soon as possible a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia".

Initial selected population centres, as well as the port and airfield serving Mogadishu, are now secure. Land routes necessary for the movement of relief supplies are now being made secure, and UNITAF will soon be in a position to commence the transition process whereby the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) will begin to maintain the secure environment already established.

Phase I of Operation Restore Hope was completed on 16 December as the Commander Task Force Somalia reported that the airfield and port facilities at Mogadishu and the airfields in Bale Dogle and Baidoa were secure.

Phase II of the Operation was completed on 28 December with the securing of all eight major relief centres to include Kismayo, Bardera, Oddur, Gialalassi and Belet Weyne. The completion of phase II operations was important not only because the major food distribution centres were secured, but also because operations were conducted by forces of both the United States and other countries participating in UNITAF.

Phase III is ongoing and will be complete when security for land movement of relief supplies from seaports to interior relief centres has been established.

On 31 December, United States Army and Italian forces secured the coastal city of Marka. Security of Marka has now been passed to forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Coalition forces continue to expand security operations in Mogadishu and the other major relief centres.

There are approximately 21,000 United States military personnel deployed in support of Operation Restore Hope.

Non-United States UNITAF forces in Somalia as of 7 January 1993 total 9,995 and include these from France (2,783), Italy (2,150), Canada (1,262), Belgium (572), Saudi Arabia (643), Turkey (309), Botswana (303), Egypt (270), Morocco (1,356), United Kingdom (90), Germany (60), New Zealand (42) and Kuwait (43). Additionally, the following countries currently have advance

parties in country: Australia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, India, Tunisia, Sweden and Pakistan.

UNITAF forces continue to build up sustainment bases in Mogadishu, Bale Dogle, Baidoa and Kismayo, and continue to expand security operations in the countryside. Security operations in the countryside continue to be important to encourage the resettlement of rural farmers and herdsmen, and the transition from the relief to the rehabilitation phase.

The efforts of UNITAF to accomplish its objective have for the most part been welcomed by the Somali population. Typically, advance parties consisting of representatives from the United States Special Envoy to Somalia and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia have preceded the movement of UNITAF forces into a new area. These advance parties have generally been successful in securing the withdrawal from the immediate area of any offensive capabilities that might threaten UNITAF forces.

On other occasions, segments of the Somali population have attempted to interfere with UNITAF forces. When no other recourse was possible, UNITAF forces engaged in action against those elements. As it also became necessary to accomplish its mission, UNITAF forces have either convinced those Somalis holding heavy weapons to isolate them in specified areas or have taken action to seize such weapons.

The progress of UNITAF forces thus far means that measures may now be taken to prepare for the transition to UNOSOM forces under United Nations command. United States government officials have begun initial discussions of this process with United Nations officials in New York and the United States Commander of UNITAF has discussed this with UNITAF Commanders of other countries and with United Nations officials in Somalia. The United States Government looks forward to prompt consideration of a Security Council resolution that will authorize an increased troop strength for UNOSOM, give it an appropriate mandate, and ensure it is properly equipped to handle that mandate.